

**Indicative Language for a Fact Sheet on USCA Announcements at GCAS – Short Form**

At the Global Climate Action Summit, a bipartisan coalition of 17 governors committed to upholding the Paris Agreement through the U.S. Climate Alliance are turning pledges into action. In the last year, the federal attack on our nation's climate framework has had real consequences – slowing the reduction of carbon pollution across the country, endangering the health of every American and leaving our nation behind as the world moves towards economies that embrace rather than fight innovation.

In spite of this, the U.S. Climate Alliance continues to reduce our GHG emissions faster than the rest of the country, and we remain committed to accelerating the implementation of real climate action to meet our share of the Paris Agreement's emission reduction goals. We do this while continuing to grow our economies and creating jobs for Americans.

Our states are committed to taking the following actions:

**Short-Lived Climate Pollutants**

Building on its commitment under the SLCP Challenge, the U.S. Climate Alliance is launching an SLCP Action Plan outlining activities that can reduce methane and other SLCP emissions an estimated 40-50 percent by 2030. We encourage others to join us, accept the SLCP Challenge, and pursue similarly ambitious targets. To get there, we will develop and implement state strategies and will collectively:

- Do our part to help fulfill [ HYPERLINK "<http://ccacoalition.org/en/resources/leaders%E2%80%99-statement-north-american-climate-clean-energy-and-environment-partnership>" ] to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector by 40-45 percent below 2012 levels by 2025;
- Reduce methane emissions from waste by improving landfill management, increasing diversion of organic waste from landfills, and supporting [ HYPERLINK "<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/united-states-2030-food-loss-and-waste-reduction-goal>" ] by 50 percent by 2030;
- Achieve economically feasible methane reductions from the agricultural sector, including from manure management and enteric fermentation on livestock operations;
- Identify and mitigate methane emissions from "super emitters," which may be responsible for as much as half of methane emissions in some sectors;
- Meet or exceed HFC emissions reductions expected from the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol and recent federal regulations; and
- Develop black carbon inventories and work to further reduce emissions of black carbon and particulate matter beyond declining "business as usual" levels.

We call on the federal government to act as well, by ratifying the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol and reinstating or completing national rules to achieve cost effective reductions of HFCs, methane, and black carbon.

**Natural and Working Lands**

The natural systems upon which we depend are essential to life and critical to reducing the impacts of climate change on our communities. They are also under threat from human activity and climate change. To protect the communities, economies, and ecosystems that depend on them, we will manage natural and working lands, including forests, farms, rangelands, and wetlands, to be resilient carbon sinks.

The U.S. Climate Alliance is committed to adopting state-level action plans by 2020 that outline the role of land-based carbon sequestration and GHG emission reductions as part of broader climate change strategies.

As a demonstration of leadership, some of our states today establish state-level targets for GHG reductions from natural and working lands:

State X: ### and statement

State Y: ### and statement

State Z: ### and statement

In addition, [NGOs XYZ] announce formation of Coalition [ABC] to provide technical support to state-level inventory development, identification of best practices for land conservation and restoration, and integration of land use and management into broader climate goals.

### **Transportation**

Together, we are investing billions of dollars in zero emission vehicle (ZEV) infrastructure and vehicle deployment – including \$1.4bn from the Volkswagen settlement – to decarbonize our transportation system. To enable the acceleration towards a ZEV future, we will strive to achieve all-zero emission vehicle (ZEV) [future][sales] as soon as possible, [and no later than 2050]. The US Climate Alliance will develop a playbook of case studies and model policies to help all states achieve this future vision, and lead by example through initiatives like “ZEV-first” purchasing policies across public fleets.

We also call on auto companies to offer more ZEV models, expand availability and improve marketing of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles so that all Americans, including those in rural areas and our farming communities, can reap the benefits of vehicles that save money, and protect our health and air.

As ZEVs are not the only solution, we will plan to study, share and implement best practices, policies and coordinated land use advancements to promote “zero emission miles” (ZEM) across all modes and fleets.

We also commit to annually calculate and report transportation GHG emissions, as our states deploy innovative ZEV and ZEM policies, [and seek to rapidly and deeply decarbonize energy used for transportation.]

### **Product Energy Efficiency Standard**

Over the last three decades, energy efficiency standards have saved consumers billions of dollars while providing the most cost-effective opportunity to avoid constructing costly new power generation. Today we announce our intent to collaborate on the adoption of common appliance efficiency standards and to coordinate on their implementation and enforcement.

A coordinated effort among multiple states to align around a common set of standards provides manufacturers certainty and the potential for greater harmony between state markets. Coordinated action among the Alliance states could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5.5 million tons and save consumers across our states \$4 billion dollars by 2025.

We agree to identify an initial set of priority standards already developed and ready for adoption and to begin work on a coordinated plan to evaluate and adopt new standards.

To ensure swift progress, ensure private sector participation and maximize the opportunity create jobs and grow our clean energy sectors, we announce our intent to partner with the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy and XYZ Manufacturers Association to advance this effort.

### **Solar Power Pledge**

U.S. Climate Alliance governors are united in their opposition to the misguided federal import tariffs on solar panels and cells enacted by the federal government in early 2018, which are forecast to reduce solar installations 11% through 2022. The Solar Energy Industries Association estimates that tariffs will cause the loss of roughly 23,000 American jobs this year alone, including solar panel installer jobs, which is the [ [HYPERLINK "https://www.bls.gov/ooh/fastest-growing.htm"](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/fastest-growing.htm) ] employment category in the country.

In response, the U.S. Climate Alliance today announces a commitment to offset the impacts of the federal solar import tariffs through the implementation of innovative cost reduction measures. To support this commitment, the U.S. Climate Alliance is announcing the release the *U.S Climate Alliance Solar Guidebook*, which contains national best practices and hands-on tools for states to reduce solar system costs and streamline regulatory processes.

### **Grid Modernization Strategies**

U.S. Climate Alliance governors today announce the release of the *Grid Modernization Playbook*, a groundbreaking implementation resource for regulators and utilities to support deployment of clean distributed energy resources in lieu of traditional utility investments. By implementing innovative alternatives to traditional utility investments, U.S. Climate Alliance states will reduce emissions, save money for consumers, and modernize their electric grids.

*[In addition, U.S. Climate Alliance governors are announcing the release of a Community Microgrid Handbook which explores strategies to organize communities and stakeholders around the creation of resilient local energy systems.]*

### **Resilience**

In August 2017, the federal government disbanded a Federal Advisory Committee designed to help shape climate science research and ensure it reaches those who need it. In January 2018, the group was reconvened in New York, pledging to continue its vital work and deliver recommendations to states in the U.S. Climate Alliance.

U.S. Climate Alliance governors today announce the release of the Applied Climate Assessment report, which contains vital recommendations on accelerating and disseminating climate science, and provides guidance on applying climate science in adaptation and mitigation action.

*[U.S. Climate Alliance governors are also announcing the launch of the Climate Assessment Consortium, a group of leading scientists, scientific societies, and NGOs which will work with federal, state and local governments to ensure that decision-making is informed by the latest climate science. The Climate Assessment Consortium will ensure that climate science is tailored to the needs of the practitioner community and that the federal National Climate Assessment process reaches its audience.]*

### **Green Banks**

[TBD]

